

From: Robert McNeal
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/22/01 1:17pm
Subject: Regulate the computer industry!

I can't believe what I'm seeing! First, the Supreme Court lets Microsoft off on conditions containing loopholes big enough to fly a B-52 through, and now the States are letting Microsoft walk with the condition of a \$1 billion educational 'donation' settlement. This settlement contains refurbished PCs and Microsoft software that will surely take great strides in driving Apple Computers out of the education market, furthering Microsoft's monopoly. Could these settlements have actually made matters worse for what's left of the computer industry?

As a unix user, It makes me sick to see 30 years worth of standardization efforts crumble as an unchecked monopoly forces its closed systems into the server market. Where unix and linux have innovated, Microsoft only sees the opportunity to build a closed system upon the work of others and drive the pioneering developers out of business. I'm really too enraged to put into words.

Why is the FCC not maintaining standards for internet protocols? What if nobody regulated the transmitter power for TV and radio stations? Whoever could afford the most powerful transmitter could overpower the transmissions of any competing networks. Every time a competitor upgrades a transmitter to reach its market, the market leader could upgrade its transmitter to dangerous levels of radiation so that only their broadcasts could be picked up on the airwaves. Eventually, in these unregulated airwaves, even the military would have to bow to the broadcast leader if they needed to do a radio transmission.

Now we have XP, every system sold will have all ports exposed to viruses by default. In these trying times, people are jailed for harboring or supporting terrorists. Now Microsoft is intentionally making the most viral operating system on the planet even more virus friendly. Why? Perhaps to place the blame on TCP-IP and use the misplaced blame as an opportunity to introduce yet another Microsoft only 'standard.'

See: <http://www.pbs.org/cringely/>

First Java, then the 'embed' html tag, Microsoft has blatantly chosen to abandon existing standards in order to expand market dominance. The United States have chosen not to regulate any sort of standards in order to expand Microsoft's market dominance. Granted, some people like to be treated like sheep and have a corporation decide how they should exist in the emerging digital age, but these mindless zombies should not dictate the future of the rest of the world.

So the US has sold out to Corporate America once again. The digital age will be a slave nation of 'subscribers' to Microsoft's corrupt agenda of exclusion. We shall no longer be the technological leaders of the world. Perhaps Europe will have more common sense when they try Microsoft. I can only hope that they can regulate the crimes Microsoft commits abroad, support competition by funding Open Source development,

or at least put their money where their mouth is by not using Microsoft products and directly supporting corrupt business practices.
I've never been so ashamed to be an American.

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